

# CLOSING ADDRESS

## CURTIS O. PORTER

Curtis O. Porter is the director of the Youth Development Division of the Family and Youth Services Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As director, Porter administers the nation's Runaway and Homeless Youth and Mentoring Children of Prisoners programs. He came to the Family and Youth Services Bureau from the nonprofit sector in 1995.

From 1987 to 1995, Porter served as the senior assistant director of Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC), a statewide host home and school-based mentoring program for runaway and homeless youth and youth in at-risk situations in Virginia. As the senior assistant director, Porter was responsible for providing general program operations oversight. His duties included managing VEFC's state, local, and federal governmental grants and its legislative initiatives. Porter supervised VEFC staff in central, eastern, and southwestern Virginia, where the staff worked with local schools, social services, and courts. VEFC staff also trained and supported advisory board members, host home families, and school-based mentors.

From 1981 until 1987, Porter served as the special programs coordinator for the 31st Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit in Manassas, Virginia. While with the 31st Judicial District, Porter was responsible for managing three Court programs: Public and Community Service, Volunteer, and the Court's Shelter Home programs. In 1984, Porter was the recipient of the Virginia Juvenile Officer Association's State Probation Officer of the Year Award.

Among the many boards and commissions Porter served were the Virginia Criminal Justice Services Board and the Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee. He was appointed to serve in these two positions by the nation's first and only elected African-American Governor, L. Douglas Wilder.